

# HEART OF AMERICA

## MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS REVIEW

A MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER SERVING THE MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS UNITS OF IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI AND NEBRASKA

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Debbie Nickels, KDHE, provides meeting participants with information on the Kansas TRAIN system

### Region VII Medical Reserve Corps Leaders Meet in Kansas City

On February 11, 2005, Medical Reserve Corps leaders from across Kansas, Missouri, Iowa and Nebraska converged on Kansas City, MO for the first Region VII Medical Reserve Corps meeting, held at the offices of the Mid-America Regional Council. Meeting participants included representatives from eight of the region's 12 Medical Reserve Corps units, state and federal Citizen

Corps coordinators, Kansas and Missouri state health departments, FEMA and OPHS/DHHS Region VII staff. Participants heard presentations on the challenges and opportunities faced by Medical Reserve Corps units and public health agencies, and the Kansas TRAIN online learning management system. In addition, participants discussed issues of critical importance to Medical Reserve Corps units, such as liability protection for volunteers, funding and sustainability, and deployment of volunteers in emergencies and disasters. The meeting also provided a networking opportunity for all participants; time was set aside for participants to get to know one another and exchange ideas and information. A summary of this meeting was recently sent to all meeting participants. Meeting attendees felt the meeting was beneficial and expressed interest in making it a regular occurrence. Thanks to all of those people who participated in this meeting and made it a great success!

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Kansas MRC Meeting Hutchinson, KS	March 8, 2005
SEMA/MEPA Conference Osage Beach, MO	March 27-30, 2005
MRC National Conference San Francisco, CA	April 20-22, 2005

Office of Public Health and Science, Department of Health and Human Services, Region VII  
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## Proposed Budget Gives \$22 Million to Medical Reserve Corps Program

According to information posted on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) website, the President's proposed FY06 budget includes \$22 million for the Medical Reserve Corps program, and represents a \$12.5 million increase over FY05 funding for this program. This increase in funding, which still must be appropriated by Congress, stems from a \$70 million initiative within DHHS for a new Federal Mass Casualty Initiative. Since FY02, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has funded efforts to expand the capacity of state and local hospitals to treat mass casualties. This new HRSA initiative reflects renewed concern that local medical systems will need significant assistance in the event of a domestic terrorist incident involving the use of weapons of mass destruction. This FY06 budget request is a three-tiered effort. First, the request for the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) program includes \$50 million in funding for the purchase, operation and maintenance of portable, deployable hospital units that can enhance hospital surge capacity in the event of a bioterrorism event. Second, the Medical Reserve Corps budget includes an increase of \$12.5 million, for a total of \$22 million. Medical Reserve Corps units can assist the existing public health and medical infrastructure in the event of a large-scale local emergency or disaster. Third, \$7.5 million will finance the development and enhancement of systems designed to rapidly access credentialing information on healthcare providers in an emergency. These systems will be able to obtain data from federal, state and non-government sources, including the Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Healthcare Personnel (ESAP-VHP) being developed by each state. It is important to note that these funds have not yet been appropriated by Congress. Consequently, the availability of this funding and how they might be used is not yet known. For more information on the President's proposed FY06 DHHS budget, see <http://www.dhhs.gov/budget/docbudget.htm>.

## National Public Health Week and Medical Reserve Corps Units

The week of April 4-10, 2005 has been designated as *National Public Health Week*. This may be a good opportunity to both promote awareness of your MRC unit and conduct an activity in support of the theme of National Public Health Week, which is empowering aging Americans to live longer, healthier lives. Materials to help promote National Public Health Week are

available at the American Public Health Association's website at <http://www.apha.org/nphw/toolkit/05-toolkit1.cfm>.

## Region VII Medical Reserve Corps Units to Give Presentations at 2005 National Leadership Conference

Representatives of Medical Reserve Corps units in Missouri, Iowa and Kansas have been selected by the Medical Reserve Corps national program office to give presentations at the April 20-22, 2005 Medical Reserve Corps National Leadership Conference in San Francisco, CA. Conference presenters from Region VII include:

### Concurrent Sessions Presentations

- Susan Hoskins, Mid-America Medical Reserve Corps, and Carmen Stanton, Northeast Missouri Medical Reserve Corps: *Two Corps-Same State: Urban vs. Rural-Alike or Different?*
- Ned Wright and Lisa Gibney, Linn County Medical Reserve Corps: *Hospital Surge Capacity Emergency Program*

### Poster Presentations

- Lisa Gibney, Linn County, Iowa Medical Reserve Corps: *Special Needs: Medically Fragile Emergency Shelter Program*
- Gloria Vermie and Kathy Gann, Sedgwick County Medical Reserve Corps; Tim Newman, Reno County Medical Reserve Corps; and Capt. Lisa Huntoon, McConnell Air Force Base: *Partnership in Action: The Medical Reserve Corps and the Local Military*

Congratulations to these Medical Reserve Corps units on their selection as presenters at the National Leadership Conference!

## Northeast Missouri Medical Reserve Corps Launches New Website

The Northeast Missouri Medical Reserve Corps, sponsored by the A.T. Sill University of Health Sciences in Kirksville, MO, has launched a new website. The unit's website can be accessed at [www.nemomrc.org](http://www.nemomrc.org). This impressive website features sections that (1)



describe the Northeast Missouri Medical Reserve Corps unit; (2) list available training activities; (3) describe the process to become a unit volunteer and provide an online application form; (4) provide a "scrapbook" of

unit activities; (5) provide links to related websites; and (6) list a calendar of events for the unit. Please visit the Northeast Missouri Medical Reserve Corps when you have a chance and provide them with feedback on their website.

### Kansas Medical Reserve Corps Units to Hold State Meeting

Medical Reserve Corps units from across Kansas will hold their second state meeting on March 8, 2005 in Hutchinson. Hosted by the Reno County Medical Reserve Corps, the meeting will allow state Medical Reserve Corps leaders to discuss issues and concerns common to units across the state, as well as provide them with an opportunity to network and share ideas and information. The meeting agenda features the following topics:

- Updates by Kansas Medical Reserve Corps units
- Region VII update
- Citizen Corps update
- Assistance to new Medical Reserve Corps units in the state
- Kansas Health Foundation grants
- Other issues

For more information on the Kansas Medical Reserve Corps meeting, contact Tim Newman at (620) 694-2900 or [tim.newman@renogov.com](mailto:tim.newman@renogov.com).

### South-Central Missouri Medical Reserve Corps Receives Official Recognition

The South-Central Missouri Medical Reserve Corps received official recognition as a Medical Reserve Corps unit on February 4, 2005. The newest Medical Reserve Corps unit in Region VII, the South-Central Missouri Medical Reserve Corps serves a six-county area in south-central Missouri, including Laclede, Pulaski, Maries, Phelps, Crawford and Dent counties. The unit is unique in that it is funded by a Citizen Corps grant; it does not currently receive funding from the national

Medical Reserve Corps program. The South-Central Missouri Medical Reserve Corps operates in partnership with the Phelps County Citizen Corps, the Laclede County Citizen Corps, the four American Red Cross chapters in the area, the Phelps County Regional Medical Center and five local public health agencies. The unit's priorities are three-fold and include (1) medical and non-medical staffing for mass prophylaxis point-of-distribution centers (i.e., Strategic National Stockpile PODs); (2) medical support to American Red Cross shelters; and (3) assistance to regional hospitals with mass patient care during disasters and emergencies. Congratulations to the leaders and volunteers of the South-Central Missouri Medical Reserve Corps on their official recognition as a Medical Reserve Corps unit!

### Shawnee County Medical Reserve Corps Develops Job Action Sheets

The Shawnee County Medical Reserve Corps has developed an extensive series of job action sheets for use by Medical Reserve Corps volunteers supporting operations at emergency distribution clinics or sites. These job action sheets are checklists that provide a wealth of information for a specific position or function, including the position's purpose and responsibilities; qualifications for the position; possible candidates for the position; necessary equipment; initial actions; primary duties; and deactivation actions. Job action sheets have been developed for the following positions and/or functions:

Interpreter-Translator	Lead Clinical Manager
Lead Education and Special	Lead Medical Manager
Needs Manager	Clinic Manager
Clinic Flow Staff	Exit Worker
Educator	Greeter
Forms Review Staff	Forms Collection Staff
Data Entry Staff	Medical Evaluation Staff
Counseling and Support Area Staff	Medical Screener
Medicine Dispenser	Medical Treatment Nurse
Medicine Preparer	Public Information Liaison
Registration Staff	Site Safety Officer
Security (Internal)	Security (Perimeter)
Supply Assistant-Runner	Supply Manager
Vaccinator (General)	Triage Staff
Vaccinator (Smallpox)	Vaccinator Assistant (General)
Vaccinator Assistant (Smallpox)	

For more information, contact Tisha Sinclair, Shawnee County Medical Reserve Corps, at (785) 368-2736 or [tisha.sinclair@co.shawnee.ks.us](mailto:tisha.sinclair@co.shawnee.ks.us). Copies are available from the Shawnee County Medical Reserve Corps, as well as from the Region VII Medical Reserve Corps office at (816) 426-2829 or [gbrown2@osophs.dhhs.gov](mailto:gbrown2@osophs.dhhs.gov).